Waiting list of telephone connections in Bilaspur

†374. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that performance of private companies is better than Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in terms of providing satisfactory service and new connections of mobile telephone;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to take necessary steps with regard to services and new connection being provided by BSNL in many areas of the country especially in Bilaspur of Chhattisgarh State; and

(c) if so, the details of waiting list till June, 2005 in Bilaspur and the steps being taken for providing new connections and improvement in performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir,Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is, *inter-alia*, mandated for monitoring of Quality of Service (QoS) provided by the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Providers. As per the TRAI report for quarter ending March, 2005, like other Private Operators, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is also meeting most of the (QoS) benchmarks in large number of circles. However, congestion in BSNL's Mobile Network has been observed in some service areas due to limitation in network capacity.

(b) and (c) BSNL is optimizing its Mobile Network continuously for improved performance. Monitoring of the network has been strengthened by BSNL to ensure performance as per the QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI. BSNL has been augmenting its mobile network continuously and action has been taken to augment the network capacity by around 14 million in the country to meet the overwhelming demand.

The waiting list for Pre-paid GSM based cellular mobile service of BSNL in Bilaspur Telecom District as on 30th June 2005 is 22,699. No waiting list is maintained for Post-paid connections BSNL has taken action for augmentation of its mobile network capacity in Bilaspur Telecom District by 25, 300 lines.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.